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Editorial

The people will make the Arroyo regime pay dearly for its repression and terrorism

The Arroyo regime has the worst record of trampling on the people's human rights since the Marcos dictatorship. The reactionary state has been inflicting ever worsening violence against the people, with things taking a turn for the worse since 2001 when the Arroyo regime blindly upheld the doctrine of the US' global "counter-terrorism war" in order to further its own counterrevolutionary and antipeople war in the country. Violations of human rights are bound to intensify further as US armed intervention in the country deepens and the possibility of direct US armed intervention grows.

The implementation of repressive measures reflects the Arroyo regime's desperation in the face of the worsening economic and political crisis of the ruling system and the growing strength of the people's revolutionary resistance in all arenas of struggle. The brutal use of violence by the state is an indication of the latter's intention to tighten its control over power and prepare various options in the face of Arroyo's slim chances of winning the coming election.

In almost three years of the Arroyo regime's existence, there has been an average of two recorded human rights violations per day. Two hundred seventy-one (271) persons have been summarily executed ("salvaged") by the military, police, paramilitary and other state instrumentalities. Even more cases have gone unreported, especially in the countryside.

Hundreds of thousands have been victimized by

forced evacuation and reconcentration, forcible recruitment into the CAFGU, detention, torture, beatings, bombings, strafing and other forms of terrorism and military abuse.

Such violent and unrestrained fascist attacks have been directed against areas believed to be bul-



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works of the revolutionary movement. Because of the reactionary state's failure to suppress the revolutionary movement, it has trained its fascist violence against unarmed people and their leaders and democratic organizations maliciously accused of supporting, or participating in, the armed movement.

The state responds with fascist ferocity against those who dare advance the people's rights and welfare. Among those victimized were 32 officers and members of the Bayan Muna party who were murdered. Ten other victims were leaders and volunteers of organizations upholding human rights.

In tandem with fascist terrorism in the countryside is the intensifying repression of the open democratic movement in the cities. Militant groups are branded "terrorist" organizations. Strikes are violently dispersed. Demonstrators are mercilessly truncheoned, bombarded with water cannons and tear-gassed. The urban poor's homes are demolished wholesale, and they are deprived of the right to eke a living in the sidewalks.

Trampling on the people's



As the Arroyo regime sinks deeper into crisis and the people's abhorrence for it grows, the regime's desperation to cling to power intensifies and its repression of a people in resistance grows more violent.

rights is definitely a conscious policy of the Arroyo regime. Arroyo has rewarded the most brutal butchers responsible for some of the worst violations of human rights. Instead of being punished for the unbridled militarization of Mindoro, Col. Jovito Palparan enjoys the benefits of a general ever since his promotion as 2nd ID deputy commander. Lt. Col. Oscar Lantao, the commander of the 19th IB responsible for the massacre of nine peasants in Kananga, Leyte in April was given a scholarship grant in the US by the Arroyo government—a privilege most coveted by AFP officials.


Not content, the regime has recently used the spate of kidnap-for-ransom incidents and bank holdups as an excuse to set up

rigid checkpoints in Metro Manila and to push vigorously the fascist National ID System scheme and the Anti-Terrorism Law.

Aside from these cases, many more are victimized by the deprivation of their most basic economic rights. Several million peasants are denied land and unjustly detained and persecuted because of the state's criminalization of agrarian struggles. Several million workers are victims of contractualization, casualization, downsizing and other anti-worker schemes that violate the right to job security. There is an ever growing list of workers who suffer attacks of unparalleled intensity on their union rights and are being denied rights and benefits achieved by their class through a century of struggle.

Several hundred thousand Moro people have become victims of massacres, food blockades, indiscriminate bombing, forced evacuation, unjust detention and other forms of state terrorism. Several million national minorities have had their lands seized, been violated and victimized by national oppression.

As the Arroyo regime sinks deeper into crisis and the people's abhorrence for it grows, the regime's desperation to cling to power intensifies and its repression of a people in resistance grows more violent. It becomes even more necessary to put an end to this exploitative, oppressive, terrorist and repressive regime. **AB**

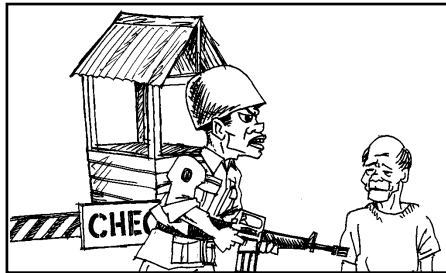
	
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Checkpoints and the National ID: Arroyo's fascist measures

On December 5, Arroyo ordered additional stringent checkpoints in Metro Manila and surrounding provinces, aside from deploying soldiers from the Philippine Army and Philippine Marines in the National Capital Region. Arroyo used the campaign against criminality to justify her order.

The setting up of checkpoints in Metro Manila and nearby provinces is reminiscent of the fascist measures carried out with the imposition of martial law. It is violative of the people's right to free movement and subjects them to unjust searches and scrutiny.

At the same time, Arroyo is once again pressing the legislation of the National ID System ostensibly to improve the manner by which criminals and terrorists are identified. As early as 1996, the Ramos regime had wanted to implement the National ID System. The Estrada regime revived the proposal in 1998. Both attempts, however, were thwarted because of powerful protests by the people and advocates of civil liberties and human rights. Even the Supreme Court has declared the scheme to be dangerous, unconstitutional and



illegal because it violates the basic right to privacy.

In the hands of the reactionary and fascist state, the National ID System will become an instrument for repressing the people, just like the cedula system was used by Spanish colonialism to clamp down on and suppress the Filipino people. The National ID System is patterned after the identification system in countries like Malaysia and Singapore where the state tightly controls the people's movements and there is intense repression of the people's basic democratic and civil rights. AB

US trains AFP commando force

The US military began training an AFP commando force in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija on November 27. The commando force will ostensibly be used to confront "terrorist threats" under the "anti-terrorism" and "anti-crime" doctrine. The special 500-man AFP "anti-terrorist" force being organized will also be subject to the US command. Its formation is a "specific requirement" by the US in exchange for financial and military support to the Philippines.

This commando force will be used by the US for its direct intervention in the Philippines. To justify its formation, Arroyo declared

the Indonesia-based fundamentalist group Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) the "number one terrorist threat" to the Philippines. AB

2 people "salvaged" weekly

The Arroyo regime's widespread violation of human rights was exposed at the 79th session of the United Nations Human Rights Committee held in Switzerland on October 20-21. During the hearing, KARAPATAN brought up the regime's numerous serious violations of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Following are just some of the more prominent cases:

There were 271 reported victims of extrajudicial killings under the Arroyo regime. This translates to two people "salvaged" every week. Thirty-two of the victims were members of Bayan Muna while ten of them were children and minors.

Ten of those killed were leaders and volunteers of the human rights organization KARAPATAN.

In Oriental Mindoro, there were 33 cases of reported killings perpetrated by the 204th Infantry Brigade led by Col. Jovito Palparan. This is the result of the province's having been declared a "national priority" in the government's counter-revolutionary campaign. Two of the more prominent cases involve the abduction and murder of Ka Eden Marcellana of KARAPATAN-Southern Tagalog and KASAMA-TK chair Ka Eddie Gumanoy.

In July 2003, elements of the Philippine Army's 16th IB (Charlie Company) led by Lt. Danilo Escandor massacred the Blanco family in Sitio Talayub, Barangay Nicolas, Magsaysay in Mindoro Oriental. The victims were Roger

Blanco, his wife Oliva who was eight months pregnant and their children Dexter, one and a half years old and John Kevin, three years old.

In Maco, Compostela Valley in Mindanao, four members of Anak ng Bayan—Lito Doydoy, Marjorie Reynoso, Jonathan Benato and Ramon Ragase—were

abducted this September. Their bodies were discovered on September 23 bearing marks of intense torture.

This November in Zamboanga City, 48 suspected victims of “salvaging” were merely left in morgues. AB

Number of political prisoners on the rise

The “counter-terrorism” campaign has resulted in a growing number of political prisoners. There are at present, 308 reported political prisoners nationwide.

A large number of those languishing in jail are innocent Moro civilians and revolutionaries and activists who have been slapped with criminal cases.

One of them is Donato Continente, who has been imprisoned for the past 15 years after being accused of involvement in the 1989 killing of Col. James Rowe of JUSMAG.

Thirteen of the political prisoners are women, three of them mothers who gave birth in prison:

- Zenaida Llesis, who has an eight-month old baby, Gabriela. Gabriela needs to be hospitalized in Manila to treat her heart and

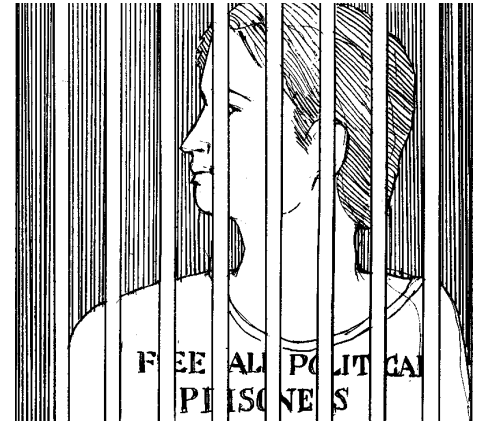
liver ailments, but the military refuses to grant permission;

- Lyn-lyn Metran, with a four-month old baby; and,

- Irene Plagtiosa, with a two-year old child.

Eighteen of the political prisoners are minors. Six of them were captured during pursuit operations conducted by the 21st IB in Marinas, Sorsogon in February, on suspicion that they were involved in the NPA assault on the PNP Kababayan Center that same month. The so-called Marinas 6 have not even finished high school.

The criminalization of agrarian



cases and labor issues is also widespread. Six leaders and members of a militant peasant association in Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro remain in detention because they were implicated in a murder case. In Isabela, seven militant peasants have also been charged with arson and theft. AB

Intensifying attacks on legal and progressive organizations

The declaration that the CPP and NPA are terrorist organizations has served as the Arroyo regime’s license to attack legal and progressive organizations. In reviving its old tactic of conducting anti-communist witch hunts, the regime has created the condition for rationalizing the systematic repression of the legal and democratic movement that advances the people’s legitimate interests.

Even before Arroyo had issued her irresponsible statements, AFP officials were already acting in chorus in branding progressive organizations as CPP fronts and NPA supporters. It is this tactic that abetted the killing of 33 members of BAYAN, Bayan Muna and KARAPATAN in Oriental Mindoro.

The regime desperately uses

anti-communist fanatical organizations like the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)-funded National Alliance for Democracy (NAD); the Kilusan Kontra Karahasan ng NPA in Bulacan; and the Southern Mindanao Alliance in Response to Terrorism or SMART, a group formed by the Davao City Police Office. SMART set up a large billboard

where it posted the names of militant groups like the LFS, KARAPATAN, BAYAN, Bayan Muna and KMU, among others, alongside the names of known leaders of the revolutionary movement in Southern Mindanao.

The regime responds with violence to protest actions of people advancing their welfare and interests. The more prominent cases involved the bloody dispersal of picket lines at SM and Nestlé Philippines. Before the regime’s master George Bush arrived for a visit, Arroyo issued the “no permit, no rally” policy which it used to suppress the people’s militant and legitimate protest actions.

The demolition of urban poor homes has been widespread. A new

wave of demolitions now threatens communities along the railroad tracks to give way to the Philippine National Railways modernization program. Thousands of families stand to lose their homes. Demolitions have

also been reported in provinces like Cotabato, Davao and Cebu. Meanwhile, sidewalk vendors are being swept off the streets like garbage. In some instances, their wares are snatched from them and burned. **AB**

Rising militarization in the countryside

Militarization has become far more violent and brutal nationwide through Oplan Gordian Knot, which the Arroyo government has implemented as a continuation of the Estrada regime's failed Oplan Makabayan.

Civilians are the usual victims of "counter-insurgency" operations in the countryside. Following are some examples:

In Barangay Batang II, Sasmuan, Pampanga, Mauricio Morales and two other fishermen were shot in the face several hours after an encounter on July 4, 2003. Maj. Gen. Alberto Braganza of the 7th ID even boasted of killing 15 NPA members in a joint operation of the 69th IB and 73rd Reconnaissance Company.

In Kananga, Leyte, elements of the 19th Infantry Commando Battalion killed nine peasant leaders and youth in Sitio Mahayahay, Barangay San Isidro.

Meanwhile, with Mindoro Oriental regarded as a national pri-

ority in the "counter-insurgency" campaign, a series of killings, forced evacuation and reconcentration, fake surrenders, forcible recruitment into the CAFGU, indiscriminate firing and other forms of intimidation and military abuses in Oriental Mindoro have taken place.

Captured NPA fighters and those rendered hors de combat from legitimate encounters are tortured before eventually being killed. Arroyo's subsequent order to prioritize in the counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism campaign 500 communities that supposedly support the NPA translates to more intense military brutality and violations of the CARHRIHL.

The military uses rebel-returnees, vigilante groups and counter-



revolutionary forces like the RPA-ABB in the Visayas and the RHB in Central Luzon in its assaults against communities in the countryside and in operations against the revolutionary forces and members of progressive organizations. **AB**

120 women in the Cordillera abused by the soldiers

Up to 120 women have become victims of sexual abuse and sexual opportunism by soldiers of the reactionary government in the past 16 years. This was the result of a study conducted by Innabuyog-GABRIELA on the implications of militarization in the Cordillera. The study involved cases of soldiers' sexual opportunism and abuse of women living within the perimeters of their encampments.

The study, which has already been submitted to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples' Rights, highlighted such forms of violence as rape and sexual harassment. The women were also made to serve as

"comfort women" or entertainers in military camps. Others became mistresses, were impregnated and later abandoned. A total of 123 children have been abandoned by their soldier-fathers after the latter's deployment to other areas. **AB**



Rapid depletion of health workers

The mass migration of nurses, doctors and other health workers has taken a heavy toll on the Philippine health system. The quality of health services much needed by the people is deteriorating.

The second wave of the mass exodus of nurses began in 2001, when up to 13,536 nurses went abroad. Because of low wages and reduced livelihood opportunities, they are drawn to the high salaries and benefits offered by industrialized countries suffering from a shortage of health workers.

Nurses are not the only ones going abroad. Based on the latest tally, over 2,000 doctors, many of them specialists, are taking nursing courses just to be able to go abroad. There were at least 700 doctors among the 8,000 that took the licensure exam for nurses. There is likewise a big shortage of clinical instructors because of their exodus from the country.

This has resulted in a "brain drain" or a depletion of professionals and highly skilled workers.

Contrary to the expectations of those who leave the country, there are numerous cases of severe exploitation, oppression and discrimination against Filipino health workers. One example is "deskilling," where nurses are made to perform jobs requiring skills far below their level of training. There are also many cases where nurses are made to work as nannies or servants.

Deteriorating health services

If hospitals already lack equipment and facilities, what kind of services can the people get now that there is also a shortage of nurses?

According to the Alliance of Health Workers, 50% of the nurses at the Philippine Heart Center,

National Kidney and Transplant Institute, Lung Center and Philippine Children's Medical Center have gone abroad in recent years. At the Jose R. Reyes Memorial and Medical Center, 25 out of the 30 operating room nurses have applied to go abroad.

Thus, even the most sensitive responsibilities, such as assisting in surgeries are being assigned to neophyte nurses while experienced nurses who have stayed behind are compelled to work doubly hard.

Some wards in public hospitals have also reportedly closed due to the shortage of nurses.

Neglect by the Arroyo regime

The Arroyo regime has severely neglected the health system. This has resulted in the collapse of health workers' livelihood, the lack of opportunities for promotion and the lack of financial security. They are thus driven to seek employment overseas.

Health workers have long been receiving salaries and benefits insufficient to provide their families a decent life. And because of serious government neglect, they suffer from bad working conditions.

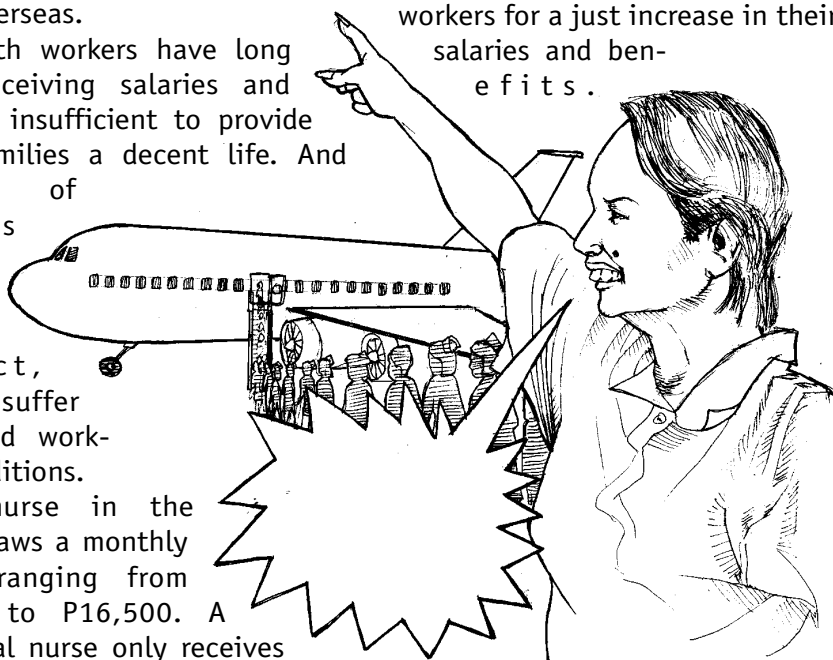
A nurse in the cities draws a monthly salary ranging from P9,350 to P16,500. A municipal nurse only receives

from P4,125 to P5,500. They are also deprived of most of their benefits. Their subsistence allowance of P1,500 is often either delayed or simply not given. Their hazard pay also comes late and is grossly inadequate. Health workers hardly receive any night differential pay, overtime pay or holiday pay.

In the Philippines, a nurse attends to an average of 60 patients per shift instead of the standard 15. There are instances where up to 100 patients are left in the care of a single nurse.

It is not surprising why nurses leave for other countries in their numbers. The impending closure or streamlining of hospitals, and even hospital mergers meant to reduce the number of personnel are a threat to health workers' job security. The Arroyo regime, for instance, plans to transfer the National Center for Mental Health (NCMH) to a smaller area and reduce the number of patients admitted by the institution in order to sell the land on which it stands. In this regard, the regime also plans the mass layoff of health workers at the NCMH.

The regime continues to turn a deaf ear to the demand of health workers for a just increase in their salaries and benefits.



Nurses' salaries remain pegged, thus failing to stop the hemorrhage of nurses towards other countries. Health has become an even lower priority in the national budget. The projected health allocation for 2004 is only 1.51% of the total budget of P864.8 billion, down from the previous 1.62%.

Part of the budget cut from the health sector will go to debt servicing and military expenditures, taking up to 36.5% of the total projected budget. The budget for debt service will be hiked from P230.7 billion to P271.5 billion and the military budget, from P42.5 billion to P45 billion.

Because of deteriorating livelihoods and government neglect, health workers have become acutely aware of their condition and are roused to fight for their rights. It is correct for them to continue demanding a P3,000 across-the-board salary increase and their just benefits. They must also continue struggling for a bigger health sector budget and to stop WTO intervention in the country's health services. Above all, they must link their struggle to the movement to end the oppressive and exploitative social system, for it is the latter that lies at the root of the problems that drive them to seek relief in other countries. **AB**

Arroyo's concessions to the Lopezes are an added burden to the people

Greater hardships are what the Arroyo regime's New Year offering to the people is. Amid the almost unbearable poverty suffered by the people, the regime through the Energy Regulatory Commission has allowed Meralco to increase its rates in exchange for the support of the Lopez family and its entire empire for Arroyo's candidacy in the 2004 election.

Among other things, the regime wants to enlist Lopez man Sen. Noli de Castro as Arroyo's running mate in the hope that he can salvage her sagging popularity. In exchange for de Castro's desistance from gunning for the presidency, Arroyo has offered to help Meralco and other distressed companies owned by the Lopez family.

Meralco will increase its rates by up to P0.12 per kilowatt-hour come January. The increase will earn the company over P2 billion in one year. According to the company, the rate hike is needed to help launch its 42 long-pending expansion projects. In May, the regime also allowed the company to raise its rates by P0.0865 per kilowatt-hour through the unbundling of rates scheme, earning Meralco over P965 million within a mere six months.

In truth, Meralco will use its earnings from the rate hikes to

help defray P30 billion in refunds to its consumers and its gargantuan debt that has now come to P14 billion. The Supreme Court ordered the refund last year after ruling that Meralco should not have passed on to consumers the taxes that the company had paid.

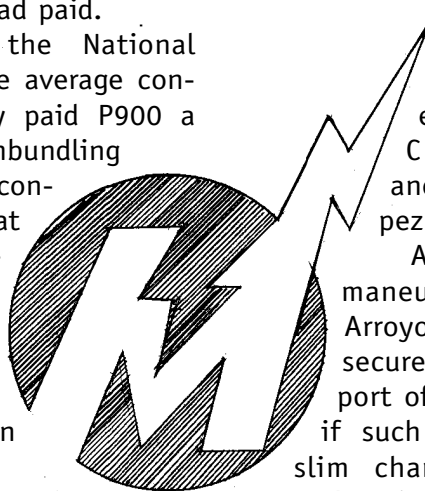
According to the National Statistics Office, the average consumer of electricity paid P900 a month before the unbundling of rates. Since May, consumers using up at least 300 kilowatt-hours per month have been slapped at least P375 per month or P4,500 per year more in electricity charges.

One of the objectives of the quid-pro-quo between Arroyo and the Lopezes is to protect the Maynilad Water Services from its creditors. Maynilad's debts

to the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) as well as its foreign borrowings have already come to \$350 million (P20 billion). Through an order by the Quezon City Regional Trial Court, the regime suspended both debt collections and the seizure of Maynilad's assets, reversing an earlier decision by the International Arbitration Court ordering Maynilad to pay MWSS P7 billion in concession fees and draw the amount from the company's \$120 million performance bond.

The regime also allowed a five-peso increase in toll fees beginning December for the use of the North Luzon Expressway which is managed by the Lopez-owned Benpres Holdings Corporation. The regime likewise issued orders favorable to the interests of Bayantel Communications, another bankrupt Lopez company.

All these deals and maneuvers are part of Arroyo's mad scramble to secure the political support of the Lopezes, even if such support has very slim chances of salvaging Arroyo's plunging administration. We can expect more of such pro-comprador and antipeople schemes as the election draws closer. **AB**



No difference

THE presidential candidates in the 2004 elections offer no real hope for the Filipino people. Thus stated Gregorio “Ka Roger” Rosal, spokesperson of the Communist Party of the Philippines regarding the candidacy of Gloria Arroyo, Raul Roco, Panfilo Lacson and Fernando Poe, Jr.

“Even as they are engaged in intense conflict, they are all united in securing the common interest of the ruling class—the perpetuation of the present system that exploits and oppresses the people—and ensuring basic policies and laws to protect the existing system and their elitist interests,” says Ka Roger.

“They are all united in continuing to open the economy in accordance with the imperialist policy of ‘globalization,’ neo-liberalization, deregulation, privatization and denationalization; in the surrender of national patrimony and granting privileges to foreign capitalists; in blocking wage hikes for workers; in the continued monopoly of big landlords and compradors over land; in the intensification of the ‘anti-terrorist war’ that is unleashing untold violence and violations of human rights; and in the endless litany of policies and laws that bring hardship to the people.”

On the other hand, according to Ka Roger, “there are some progressive political parties that are comprehensively different from the reactionary

parties of the ruling classes and truly advocate the patriotic and democratic interests of the people. They do not engage in the dirty and antipeople methods and gameplans of the reactionary political parties. Among them are Bayan Muna and Anakpawis.”

But because of their progressive, patriotic and propeople stand and actions, and because they enjoy the people’s deep and broad support, “the reactionaries are doing everything, including using the AFP, the paramilitary and covert forces, to perpetrate violence against, suppress and malign these parties and terrorize those who want to support them.” This is why they are unable “to maximize opportunities to participate in and express their views within the reactionary parliament.” They are “severely limited by the violence, deception, fraud and dirty maneuvers and moves of the reactionary state, reactionary politicians and the ruling classes.”

Ka Roger also said that “lack of confidence and hope regarding reactionary elections are fast spreading and more and more people grasp the correctness and necessity of revolutionary struggle. The corruption of the reactionary political system and the crisis-ridden social and economic system it coddles drives the people to tread the path of revolution.”

BAYAN urges investigation into JUSMAG’s secret visit to Bicol

THE Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN) and Bayan Muna demanded that the Camarines Sur Provincial Board investigate the secret visit by officials of the Joint United States Military Assistance Group (JUSMAG) to a number of far-flung areas in the province. In a letter it sent on November 18 to the Provincial Board, BAYAN strongly protested the US’ violation of the constitution and sovereignty of the Philippines in relation to the agenda behind its

secret visit and the possibility that this could lead to intensified fighting between the AFP and the NPA.

On October 28 and 29, four members of the JUSMAG Civil Affairs Team led by Capt. Gina Richter secretly visited four barrios in Camarines Sur—Baya and Laguio in Ragay, and South Villazar and Salvacion in Sipocot.

According to local officials, the JUSMAG personnel did not want to identify themselves during public

gatherings. Their having gathered information about health and education projects only came to light when BAYAN undertook a fact-finding mission in those places on November 17.

BAYAN took note of the particular attention JUSMAG gave to the town of Ragay because of its strategic location. BAYAN said that the town serves as the entry point to the interior barrios of Camarines Sur and the Bondoc Peninsula in Quezon province.

AFP spins dirty propaganda

THE AFP Civil Relations Service (AFP-CRS) has once again been spinning intrigues.

In November, the AFP-CRS issued a press release containing malicious propaganda and outright lies, which was subsequently released by its paid hacks in the newspapers recently. The AFP wanted to create rifts and intrigues between leading Party

cadres.

The story spun by the press release purported that a leading cadre of the National United Front Committee accused a leading cadre of the National Organization Department of financial opportunism. The AFP-CRS merely speculated who the leaders of these national organs were.

50 journalists killed in the Philippines since 1986

UP to 50 journalists have been killed in the Philippines since 1986 with the December 2 slaying of Nelson Nadura, a broadcaster of dyME, the lone radio station in Masbate.

Meanwhile, the Brussels, Belgium-based International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) has once again

expressed concern over such killings. In its December 4 letter to Arroyo, it demanded that sedulous attention be given to the case to give justice to Nadura's death. Said the IFJ, it is essential that journalists are free from threats of violence and allowed to work in an environment free from fear.

Fourteen journalists have been killed in almost three years of Arroyo's presidency. Most of the victims were critical of the Arroyo regime and corrupt and fascist local bureaucrats, politicians and the military. Up to now, not one of the criminals has been held accountable for his crime.

Numerous Iraqi casualties, mere US propaganda

THE US intentionally inflated the number of Iraqi guerrillas killed in the intense fighting that took place in the town of Samarra on November 30.

Residents of Samarra said only eight or nine Iraqis were killed, most of them civilians who spontaneously used their firearms when they saw guerrillas attack a convoy of American soldiers. At least five American soldiers were wounded in the fighting that lasted two hours. This is the most intense battle that has taken place in Iraq since the US declared the war over.

According to reports, the cornered American soldiers indiscriminately fired their machine guns and their tanks fired artillery rounds at all the civilians they passed by in streets and buildings. Among the buildings fired upon was a hospital where civilians carrying the wounded were strafed and a nearby kindergarten. Even

civilians prone on the ground were fired upon.

In its first report, the US claimed that 46 Iraqi guerrillas involved in the encounter were killed. The US increased the number to 54 the next day.

Jacking up the number of Iraqi guerrillas killed is meant to cover up for the number of American casualties in the country. In the month of November alone, up to 77 US soldiers were killed in Iraq, bigger than the 73 killed in September and October, and the same number killed during the height of the fighting in April when the US assaulted the Iraqi capital of Baghdad.

Eighty-two members of the US-led coalition forces have also been slain, including 52 Britons, 17 Italians and 10 Spaniards.

Up to 50 Iraqi guerrilla attacks per day against occupation troops took place also in November.